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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,155	10/20/2003	Richard A. Seiss	10,634	6385

7590 12/14/2004
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EXAMINER

TANNER, HARRY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3744

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/689,155

Applicant(s)

SEISS, RICHARD A.

Examiner

Harry B. Tanner

Art Unit

3744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/04/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bryson. Bryson discloses a relief port having a housing adapted to be mounted in the wall of a freezer compartment with a resilient valve cover 68 connected to a base member 67 having a plurality of holes 71 in which the valve flexes open in response to a pressure differential across the valve member (see Figures 5 and 6 and col. 4, line 70 to col. 5, line 13).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryson as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Israelson. Israelson teaches the use of an umbrella valve as a check valve. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Bryson such that it used an umbrella valve as the check valve of the relief port in view of the teachings of Israelson.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryson as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Mittleman. Mittleman teaches the use of

a duckbill valve as a check valve. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Bryson such that it used a duckbill valve as the check valve of the relief port in view of the teachings of Mittleman.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryson as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Yamada. Yamada teaches the use of telescoping sections of the housing for a relief port of a freezer (see 6 and 7 of Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Bryson such that it the used telescoping sections for the housing of the relief port in view of the teachings of Yamada.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry B. Tanner whose telephone number is (571) 272-4813. The examiner can normally be reached 8:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Tuesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Denise Esquivel, can be reached on (571) 272-4808. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

Art Unit: 3744

more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry B. Tanner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harry" and last name "Tanner" clearly distinguishable.

Harry B. Tanner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3744